

On occasions an interesting association between *M. albicollis* and ants, *Tetraponera* sp. has been observed (Figure 2). The ants occupy the tunnels made by the larvae and, when a weevil and ants are outside on the haustoria the ants appear to have a close relationship with the beetle. I have observed them climbing over and 'licking' the elytra; at no time have I seen ants attacking the weevils. The beetles will move back into their tunnels and, if these are occupied by *Tetraponera*, the ants will precede the beetle which then blocks the entrance.

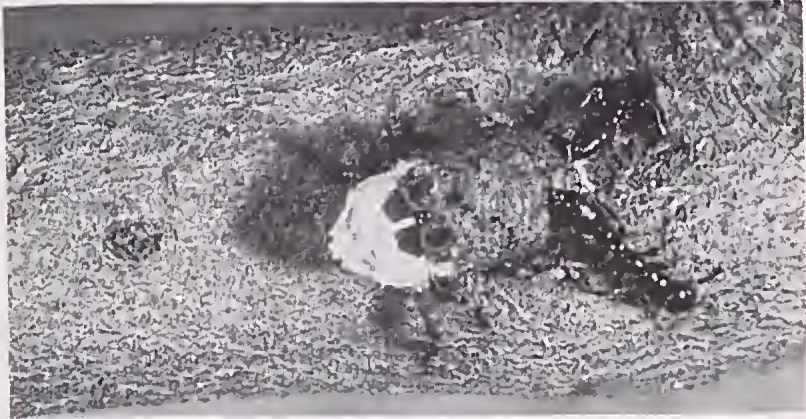


Figure 2. *Metyrus albicollis* and ants, *Tetraponera* sp. on stem of mistletoe, *Amyema preissii*. Northam, December 1969.

As *Metyrus albicollis* so closely resembles the droppings of *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* I have suggested to the Common Names of Insects Committee of the C.S.I.R.O. Canberra, A.C.T. that this species be given the common name of Mistletoebird-dropping Weevil.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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REFERENCE

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— R.P. McMILLAN, Western Australian Museum, Perth 6000

Grey Teal breeding on Rottnest Island — The Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons* has been a regular non-breeding visitor to Rottnest Island for many years (Storr 1965, *Emu* 64: 105-113; Saunders and de Rebeira 1985, *The bird life of Rottnest Island*). It has been recorded in small groups (less than 30 birds) from the island during all seasons of the year where it mostly frequents Salmon and Lighthouse Swamps. Late on 25 December 1985 a pair of adult Grey Teal were seen on Bulldozer Swamp accompanied by two ducklings about one quarter adult size and unable to fly. When approached, the adults led the ducklings into vegetation on an island in the middle of the swamp. In the evening of 26 December

only one duckling remained. To the best of our knowledge this is the first breeding record for this species from the island.

— PETER GRAHAM, 14 Kingsway, Nedlands and DENIS SAUNDERS, 24 Victoria St., Guildford.

Additions to the Herpetofauna of Wongan Hills — During a Naturalist Club excursion to Wongan Hills on 28-30 September 1985 two species of reptile and one amphibian were recorded as new for the area.

These are as follows;

Lymnodynastes dorsalis — Five found while spotlighting at Freshwater Pond ca 5 km north-west of Mortlock Reserve.

Diplodactylus spinigerus — Adult found under dead shrub in mallee woodland adjacent to Fowlers Gully.

Tiliqua occipitalis — Sub-adult excavated from burrow at Mortlock Reserve.

The herpetofauna of the Wongan Hills was listed by Dell & Harold (1977 in *The Natural History of the Wongan Hills*, W.A. Naturalists' Club Handbook No. 11).

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White-Backed Swallow on Rottnest — Vagrant or Pioneer? — A White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternum* was identified at Kingstown on Rottnest Island during the last week of November 1985. This is the first record for the island. It may have been a vagrant or a further step in a range extension that has established this species around Perth in recent years.

The bird was first observed flying with Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins. It called continuously on the wing. Whether in response to this or its appearance, it was repeatedly chased for as long as a minute by Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows. The observations were made near a deep path blow-out which leads to the rifle-range. There was a fresh burrow in a 2m-high bank close to where the bird landed during the day, and from which it emerged when the hole was approached at dusk. Only one White-backed Swallow was seen at the rifle-range but the same or another individual was sighted near the main lighthouse on 30 November.

Many bird species are likely to be recorded as vagrants on near-coastal islands such as Rottnest. Of greater interest is whether a new arrival will become established. Many pairs of Rainbow Bee-eater now migrate to breed near Kingstown but were only first recorded in 1977 (Saunders *et al* 1981. *Birds of Rottnest Island*). Regular migration of another burrow roosting and nesting species, the White-backed Swallow would suggest that human creation of suitable nest-sites has been a factor in this expansion of the island's avian community.

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